

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01129 161234Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SES-02 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10 /091 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5747
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 1129

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, US
SUBJECT: CALL ON DIRECTOR OF UN DEPARTMENT, LIBYAN MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. DURING MY OPENING CALL AUG 15 ON DIRECTOR OF UN AFFAIRS NAJIB SHAYBANI, HE BEGAN WITH AN ACCOUNT OF LIBYAN UNHAPPINESS WITH THE STATUS OF US-LIBYAN RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE THEN REVIEWED STATUS OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION ELSEWHERE IN NORTH AFRICA AND ARGUED THAT IT WAS AN ANOMALY AND CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL USAGE FOR THE U.S. TO REFUSE TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS WITH LIBYA.

2. WITHOUT WAITING FOR ME TO RAISE TERRORISM ISSUE, SHAYBANI LAUNCHED INTO THE USUAL LIBYAN DEFENSE OF LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." FROM THIS HE INFERRED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION HAD CONFUSED SUCH SUPPORT WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, WHILE IN FACT LIBYAN GOVT STRONGLY OPPOSES TERRORISM. IN REPLY I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS AN AREA IN WHICH THERE COULD BE DIFFERENT VIEWS REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF TERRORISM. HOWEVER, THERE WERE OTHER

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01129 161234Z

ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THIRD COUNTRIES INVOLVING INNOCENT PEOPLE, WHICH ARE UNIVERSALLY REGARDED AS CONSTITUTING TERRORISM, AND IT IS WITH THESE THE USG AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED.

3. SHAYBANI CLAIMED THAT LIBYA WAS NOT SUPPORTING SUCH ACTIVITIES, AND HE CITED LIBYA'S ADHERENCE TO

THE MONTREAL, TOKYO AND HAGUE CONVENTIONS ON AIRCRAFT
HIJACKING RING WHICH HE PROMISED TO SEND US A
WRITTEN NOTE.

4. I EXPRESSED HOPE TO DEVELOP A DIALOGUE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF EXPLORING WAYS TO IMPROVE THE ADMITTEDLY
UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF US-LIBYAN RELATIONS. SHAYBANI
OFFERED TO BE OF HELP AND SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING
LIBYA'S UN REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR KIKHYA, AND
WOULD DISCUSS LATTER'S DESIRE TO CONTACT THE USG AT A
HIGH LEVEL, WHICH I URGED SHOULD BEGIN WITH UNDER
SECRETARY NEWSOM.

5. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, NEW LIBYAN CHARGE IN
WASHINGTON, MADFAI, WILL BE COMING TO THE RESIDENCE
EVENING OF AUG 16 FOR A PRIVATE DISCUSSION. HE DOES
NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON UNTIL AFTER THE
POST-RAMADAN HOLIDAY FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.
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